

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A genetically modified plant comprising in its genome at least one antisense sequence that inhibits expression of a FT gene having a nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1, ~~and wherein said plant has a~~ phenotype of delayed flower development, and wherein the at least one antisense sequence has at least 95% identity to a nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3.

Claims 2-5 (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) The genetically modified plant of Claim 1, wherein the at least one antisense sequence has ~~at least 95% identity to a~~ the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) The genetically modified plant of claim 1, wherein the at least one antisense sequence is operably associated with a regulatory nucleotide sequence.

9. (Original) The genetically modified plant of claim 8, wherein the regulatory nucleotide sequence is a promoter.

10. (Original) The genetically modified plant of claim 9, wherein the promoter is a constitutive promoter.

11. (Original) The genetically modified plant of claim 9, wherein the promoter is an inducible promoter.

12. (Previously presented) The genetically modified plant of claim 1, further comprising a selectable marker genetically linked to the at least one antisense sequence.

13. (Previously presented) The genetically modified plant of claim 1, wherein the plant is a dicotyledonous plant.

14. (Previously presented) The genetically modified plant of claim 1, wherein the plant is a monocotyledonous plant.

15. (Previously presented) A plant cell derived from the genetically modified plant of claim 1.

16. (Previously presented) Plant tissue derived from the genetically modified plant of claim 1, wherein the plant tissue comprises in its genome at least one antisense sequence that inhibits expression of a FT gene having a nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.

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17. (Currently amended) A seed which germinates into a plant comprising in its genome at least one antisense sequence that inhibits expression of a FT gene having a nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1, ~~and wherein said plant has a phenotype of delayed flower development, and wherein the at least one antisense sequence has at least 95% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:3.~~

18. (Currently amended) The seed of Claim 17, wherein the at least one antisense sequence has ~~at least 95% sequence identity to~~ the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3.

19. (Currently amended) A vector containing a nucleotide sequence comprising at least one antisense sequence operably associated with a promoter, wherein said vector, when introduced into a plant, encodes at least one antisense molecule that inhibits expression of a FT gene having a nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 ~~and wherein said plant exhibits delayed flower development in comparison to a wildtype plant, and wherein the at least one antisense sequence has at least 95% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:3.~~

20. (Currently amended) The vector of Claim 19, wherein the at least one antisense sequence has ~~at least 95% sequence identity to~~ the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3.

21. (Previously presented) The vector of claim 19, wherein the vector comprises a T-DNA sequence.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) The vector of claim 19, wherein the promoter is a constitutive promoter.

24. (Original) The vector of claim 19, wherein the promoter is an inducible promoter.

Claims 25-34 (Cancelled)

35. (Currently amended) A method of producing a genetically modified plant having delayed flowering, comprising:

contacting plant cells with a vector encoding an antisense sequence having at least 95% identity with the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3, and wherein said antisense sequence ~~that~~ interferes with expression of a FT gene having a nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 to create transformed plant cells;

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growing plants from said transformed plant cells; and
screening for a plant exhibiting delayed flower development relative to wildtype plants.

36. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 35, wherein said antisense sequence has ~~at least 95% identity with~~ the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3.

37. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 35, wherein said antisense sequence is linked to a promoter.

38. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 37, wherein said promoter is a constitutive promoter.

39. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 37, wherein said promoter is an inducible promoter.